(e) whether Government have made any scheme for providing power to different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The Site Selection Committee (SSC) constituted by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has surveyed sites in the different regions of the country.

(b) Government has not taken any decision on the sites for future projects. The medium term nuclear power programme envisages addition of 1300 MWe during the Tenth plan to the existing capacity of 2720 MWe, thereby taking the total capacity to 4020 MWe by the end of the Tenth plan and progressively reaching a total nuclear power capacity of 6680 MWe by December, 2008. Work on these projects is progressing as per schedule. A total nuclear capacity of about 10,000 MWe by the end of the Eleventh Plan (2011-12) and 20,000 MWe by the year 2020 has been planned.

(c) Bargi in Mandla District and Rajapur in Shivpuri District are among the sites investigated by the SSC in Madhya Pradesh.

(d) No, Sir. The work carried out by the SSC is only the first stage of site selection process. Site clearances are required to be taken on safety angle from Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and environmental angle from Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) before a project at any site can be approved by the Government. In addition, demand for electricity, energy options available to a region for meeting its demand, availability of funds and order of suitability of sites are considerations in location of nuclear power plants.

(e) The nuclear power plants are in the Central Sector and therefore beneficiary States in an electricity region have a share of power regardless of the actual location of the project in the region.

Branch post offices in Himachal Pradesh

†2555. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether criteria for opening sub post offices are relaxed in remote, hilly and bordering States like Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of conditions which are being relaxed;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the number of sub post offices proposed to be opened and upgraded in Himachal Pradesh during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the efforts being made to achieve the target and the action plan thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Existing norms for opening Sub Post Offices in remote, hilly, tribal and desert areas in the country including Himachal Pradesh are more relaxed than those for normal areas. Norms applicable for opening Post Offices, both in normal as well as in hilly, tribal, desert and remote areas, are given in the Statement enclosed. (*See* below)

(c) Targets for opening Post Offices in States/Circles are fixed year-wise. Hence, for the Plan year 2002-2003, 2 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 54 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras were opened in Himachal Pradesh. For the Plan year 2003-2004, 2 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices, 1 Departmental Sub Post Office and 40 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras are targeted in Himachal Pradesh.

(d) Efforts are made to ensure full achievement of targets through regular monitoring, both at the Circle level and centrally.

Statement

Conditions for Opening Branch Post Offices

Sl.No.	The details of Norms	Specific condition for opening of a BO in normal area	Relaxed conditions for opening of BO in remote, hilly, tribal and desert areas
1	2	3	4
1.	Population	The population of the proposed village for opening of a BO or in a group of villages to be attached should not be less than 3000	The population condition in relaxed to be 500 of the proposed village or 1000 population in a group of villages
2.	Distance	The minimum distance for the nearest existing PO should be 3 kms.	The distance limit will be the same as for normal areas, except that in hilly areas, the minimum

1	2	3	4
			distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases of special circumstances, explained clearly while submitting the proposals
3.	Anticipated Income	The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33.33% of the cost	The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost

Broadband services on commercial line

2556. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to introduce broadband services on commercial lines;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), in that regard; and

(c) the cities in which broadband services would be introduced in the first instance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is already providing High Speed Internet Access to its Basic Telephone Service subscribers through Direct Internet Access System (DIAS). Further, a franchise agreement has been signed by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for provision of broadband services in cities of Kolkata, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Chandigarh.

Post offices in J&K

2557. SHRI T.S. BAJWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices working in Jammu and Kashmir, district-wise;